

Report of the Accreditation Re-visit to Phillips Graduate Institute

February 10, 2010

Overview:

This item is a follow-up of the accreditation visit to Phillips Graduate Institute that was conducted February 8 to February 10, 2010. This item provides the report of the re-visit team and recommendations regarding the stipulations and the accreditation status.

Staff Recommendations

1. That all three stipulations from the 2009 accreditation visit be removed.
2. That the accreditation decision, **Accreditation with Major Stipulations**, be changed to **Accreditation**.

Background

A COA accreditation team conducted a visit at Phillips Graduate Institute on May 12 - 15, 2008. On the basis of the accreditation team report, the COA made the following accreditation decision for Phillips Graduate Institute and all of its credential programs: **Accreditation with Technical Stipulations**

The institution was required to respond to the stipulations and prepare for a re-visit within one year of the accreditation action. The institution prepared a document indicating how the stipulations had been addressed and what changes had been made in areas of the standards identified by the team as needing attention. The institution prepared an interview schedule for the constituencies identified by the team. The re-visit was conducted by one of the original team members and CTC staff consultant. After the interviews on campus, the team prepared an accreditation report that was presented to the institution. It was provided to the Committee on Accreditation for consideration and action.

Following are the stipulations from the original accreditation visit and the 2009 COA Action:

Stipulations from the 2008 Visit	2009 COA Action
That the unit provides written evidence that all Common Standards less than fully met are now met.	
a. That the unit provides written documentation that sufficient personnel resources are allocated to each of the credential programs to insure their effective operation.	a) Removal of stipulation
b. That the unit provides written evidence that district representatives and credential holders work in conjunction with the institution to develop the school counseling and school psychology internship programs and related program evaluations. The unit needs to provide written evidence that a plan has been developed with related program evaluation criteria.	b) Removal of stipulation
c. That the unit provides written documentation noting admission requirements	c) Continued

Stipulations from the 2008 Visit	2009 COA Action
for school counseling and school psychology internship programs. The unit needs to provide printed materials to candidates describing admission requirements for the school counseling and school psychology internship programs. The unit needs to provide documentation regarding the steps which school psychology and school counseling internship candidates must take to complete a counseling or psychology credential.	stipulation
d. That the unit provides written documentation that there are individual plans for mentoring, support, and professional development for each internship candidate (school counseling and school psychology). The unit also needs to provide evidence of collaboration with employing school districts to develop the individual plan.	d) Removal of stipulation
That the unit provides evidence that the school counseling program is coordinated effectively in accordance with a cohesive design that has a cogent rationale.	Continued stipulation
That a focused revisit takes place in one year, primarily focusing on the school counseling program design (Generic Standard 1: Program Design, Rationale and Coordination).	Continued stipulation

The Committee on Accreditation amended the initial re-visit team's recommendation on May 13, 2009 from **Accreditation with Technical Stipulations** to **Accreditation with Major Stipulations** and required a focused re-visit to be scheduled for the 2009-10 year.

The focused re-visit took place February 8-10, 2010. The remaining stipulations and the re-visit team's recommendations are summarized below:

Stipulations from the 2009 Re-Visit	2010 Re-visit Team Recommendation
That the unit provides written materials describing admission requirements for the school counseling and school psychology internship programs. The unit must provide documentation regarding the steps which school psychology and school counseling internship candidates must take to complete a counseling or psychology credential.	Removal of stipulation
That the unit provides evidence that the school counseling program is coordinated effectively in accordance with a cohesive design that has a cogent rationale.	Removal of stipulation
That a focused re-visit take place six months from the date of this letter, focusing on the two stipulations above.	Removal of stipulation

**CALIFORNIA COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING
COMMITTEE ON ACCREDITATION
ACCREDITATION TEAM RE-VISIT REPORT**

Institution: Phillips Graduate Institute

Dates of Re-Visit: February 8 to February 10, 2010

**Prior COA
Accreditation Decision:** Accreditation with Major
Stipulations

Re-visit Team Recommendations

The team recommends:

1. That all stipulations from the 2009 accreditation re-visit be removed.
2. That the accreditation decision be changed to **Accreditation**.

Rationale

Based upon the review of supporting evidence and interviews with faculty members, institutional administration and students, the team determined that the institution has provided responses to all of the stipulations. In addition, the institution has addressed all of the standards less than fully met which were identified during the accreditation visit one year ago.

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Staff: Joe Dear, Retired Consultant

Below are listed the stipulations approved by the COA after the site visit in 2009 followed by the 2010 institutional response. Next are listed the revisit team findings and recommendations. After this section, the revisit team findings on the Common Standards and program standards are included.

Findings on Stipulations

Stipulation #1

That the unit provides written materials describing admission requirements for the school counseling and school psychology internship programs. The unit must provide documentation regarding the steps which school psychology and school counseling internship candidates must take to complete a counseling or psychology credential.

Institutional Response (2010)

The institution provided written materials describing admission requirements for the school counseling and school psychology internship programs including criteria for admissions and step by step procedures necessary to enter the internship credential programs.

Revisit Team Finding

Through document reviews and faculty and administrative interviews the team confirmed that admission requirements and procedures are clearly identified.

Revisit Team Recommendation

Revisit team recommends removal of this stipulation.

Stipulation #2

That the unit provides evidence that the school counseling program is coordinated effectively in accordance with a cohesive design that has a cogent rationale.

Institutional Response (2010)

The institution provided clear and convincing evidence of actions taken to address this stipulation in its response to *School Counseling Standard 1: Program Design, Rationale and Coordination*

Revisit Team Finding

After a revisit and review of the institutional program documents, including syllabi, course material, interviews with program coordinators, core foundation and adjunct faculty, as well as first and second year student candidates in the program and graduates from the program, the team found convincing evidence that the program is coordinated effectively in accordance with a cohesive design that has a cogent rationale. A review of syllabi and interviews with faculty and first year students reflects strong evidence that school counseling content is clearly infused into all courses taken during their first year of the program. Previously noted concerns about the prominence of the Marriage and Family Therapy content in courses required of school counseling candidates have been transformed into well integrated areas of strengths and complimentary between the two specializations. The result is an increased level of appreciation by both faculty and students about the effectiveness of the newly integrated program. A notable example of this program integration is the case conferencing course which has become an institutionalized model for reflective school counseling practice.

Revisit Team Recommendation

Revisit team finds the *School Counseling Standard 1* to be Met and recommends removal of this stipulation.

Stipulations #3

That a focused re-visit take place six months from the date of this letter, focusing on the two stipulations above.

Institutional Response (2010)

The institution prepared for and hosted a focused re-visit.

Revisit Team Recommendation

Revisit team recommends removal of this stipulation.